

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: POLITICAL CRISIS MOVES CLOSER TO RESOLUTION; BERL-
INGUER SPEAKS AT NAPLES

SUMMARY: A COLLEGIAL MEETING SATURDAY AND A MEETING OF
EXPERTS SUNDAY REPRESENT THE LATEST MOVES IN THE EFFORTS TO
RESOLVE THE ITALIAN POLITICAL CRISIS WHICH WILL SHORTLY
BECOME THE LONGEST OF THE POST-WAR ERA. THERE IS A GENERAL
CONSENSUS THAT THESE GATHERINGS SUCCEEDED IN OVERCOMING
OUTSTANDING DIFFICULTIES IN ESTABLISHING AN AGREED-UPON
PROGRAM FOR A NEW CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MONOCOLORE
GOVERNMENT. PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE ANDREOTTI WILL
CONSULT WITH TRADE UNION OFFICIALS MARCH 6 AND WITH
INDUSTRIAL LEADERS MARCH 7 BEFORE HOLDING WHAT IS VIEWED
AS A FINAL COLLEGIAL MEETING MARCH 8 PRIOR TO OFFICIALLY
INFORMING PRESIDENT LEONE THAT HE IS PREPARED TO PROCEED TO
FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. MEANWHILE, SPEAKING IN NAPLES AT
THE CONCLUSION OF A COMMUNIST ORGANIZED WORKERS' CONFERENCE,
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COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) SECRETARY GENERAL BERLINGUER TOLD
HIS AUDIENCE THAT THE PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT HAS REACHED THE
THRESHOLD OF POLITICAL DIREVRION OF ITALIAN SOCIETY.
END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE ANDREOTTI HAD A BUSY ROUND
OF POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS OVER THE WEEKEND (MARCH 4-5) DURING

WHICH GENERAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON A PROGRAM FOR A NEW CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL BE SUPPORTED BY A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY INCLUDING THE PCI. AT A COLLEGIAL MEETING OF THE LEADERS OF THE SIX PARTIES WHICH HAVE PARTICIPATED FROM THE BEGINNING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT, AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT ON MOST OF THE MAJOR OUTSTANDING ISSUES, I.E. THE ECONOMY AND PUBLIC SECURITY, WERE RESOLVED. WHILE THE FULL DETAILS OF THE POINTS OF AGREEMENT HAVE NOT YET BEEN RELEASED, IT APPEARS THAT ON THE ISSUE OF THE PUBLIC DEBT ACCORD WAS REACHED TO REDUCE IT FROM A PROJECTED 29,000 BILLION LIRE TO 24,000 BILLION LIRE. ON THE IMPORTANT ISSUE OF THE PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HAVE APPARENTLY BACKED DOWN FROM THEIR OPPOSITION TO DEMILITARIZATION OF THE POLICE WHILE THE LEFT HAS DROPPED ITS INSISTENCE THAT PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES BE PERMITTED TO ORGANIZE TRADE UNIONS AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL CGIL, CISL, UIL FEDERATION. IN THE COMPROMISE, AGREEMENT WAS APPARENTLY REACHED ALLOWING FOR THE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES WITH THE INSTITUTION OF ADEQUATE RULES OF DISCIPLINE. AT THE SAME TIME, PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES WILL BE PERMITTED TO FORM AUTONOMOUS UNIONS, THESE UNIONS TO HAVE NO LINKS TO THE EXISTING NATIONAL FEDERATION.

2. DURING AN EXPERTS' MEETING ON SUNDAY, AGREEMENT WAS REPORTEDLY ACHIEVED ON REVISIONS OF THE LEGGE REALE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(PUBLIC ORDER) WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY ABROGATE THE NEED FOR A REFERENDUM ON THIS ISSUE THIS SPRING. SINCE THE PCI HAS SOUGHT TO AVOID ALL REFERENDA (PARTICULARLY THE LEGGE REALE) THAT WOULD LEAD TO POLITICAL TENSION AND A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE VARIOUS POLITICAL FORCES, THIS AGREEMENT WENT A LONG WAY TOWARD MEETING PCI OBJECTIVES. ONCE PARLIAMENT PASSES THE AGREED AMENDMENTS, A DECISION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT WILL BE REQUIRED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE REVISIONS ADOPTED ARE SUFFICIENT TO ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE REFERENDUM. SO FAR NO ACCORD HAS BEEN REACHED ON THE ABORTION ISSUE, AND DC PRESIDENT MORO STATED MARCH 4 THAT HIS PARTY'S POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF LIBERALIZATION OF ABORTION REMAINS AS BEFORE. HE INDICATED THAT THIS SHOULD BE A SUBJECT FOR PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION AND SUGGESTED THAT IT NOW RESTS WITH THE LAY PARTIES (INCLUDING THE PCI) TO COME UP WITH PROPOSALS WHICH, IF ADOPTED, WOULD CANCEL THE NEED FOR A REFERENDUM ON THE EXISTING ABORTION LAW. THE PCI SECRETARY GENERAL BERLINGUER TOLD AN AUDIENCE ON MARCH 5 THAT HIS PARTY WISHES TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ANNUL THE NEED FOR A REFERENDUM ON ABORTION.

3. TODAY, MARCH 6, ANDREOTTI IS MEETING WITH LEADERS OF THE TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION TO BRING THEM UP TO DATE ON THE PROGRAM WHICH HE IS PROPOSING FOR HIS NEW GOVERNMENT. ANDREOTTI WILL HOLD A SIMILAR MEETING ON MARCH 7 WITH CONFINDUSTRIA LEADERS BEFORE SITTING DOWN AGAIN ON MARCH 8 FOR ANOTHER COLLEGIAL SESSION WITH DELEGATIONS OF THE SIX PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. IF HE ENCOUNTERS NO OBSTACLES AT THIS MEETING, ANDREOTTI IS THEN EXPECTED TO INFORM PRESIDENT LEONE OFFICIALLY THAT HE IS PREPARED TO PROCEED WITH THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT. SOME OBSERVERS ARE PREDICTING THAT ANDREOTTI WILL THEN BE PREPARED TO ANNOUNCE THE NAMES OF THE MEMBERS OF HIS NEW GOVERNMENT AS EARLY AS SATURDAY, MARCH 11.

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4. MEANWHILE, SPEAKING AT THE CONCLUDING SESSION OF A COMMUNIST ORGANIZED NATIONAL WORKERS' CONFERENCE, PCI SECRETARY GENERAL BERLINGUER EVINced TO AN ENTHUSIAcSTIC AUDIENCE GENERAL SATISFACTION OVER THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CURRENT CRISIS IS BEING RESOLVED. BERLINGUER DID NOT MENTION THE PCI'S FAILURE TO ACHIEVE A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY, BUT HE DID PUT THE MOST POSITIVE CAST ON THE ENTRY OF THE PCI INTO A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY. THE PCI SECRETARY TOLD HIS AUDIENCE THAT QUOTE THE ITALIAN PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT HAS REACHED THE THRESHHOLD OF THE POLITICAL DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY. END QUOTE. BERLINGUER TALKED OF THE NEED TO WORK FOR THE SOCIALIZATION OF SOCIETY IN A CAPITALIST WORLD WHICH FINDS ITSELF IN CRISIS, BUT HE ALSO REFERRED TO CERTAIN UNSPECIFIED CRISES IN THE SOCIALIST WORLD. BERLINGUER DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION THE CONCEPT OF THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE, WHICH HAS GENERALLY BEEN ABSENT FROM THE VOCABULARY OF COMMUNIST LEADERS IN RECENT MONTHS. (HOWEVER, IN THE KICKOFF SPEECH TO THE CONFERENCE, PCI SECRETARIAT MEMBER GIORGIO NAPOLITANO DID SPECIFICALLY MENTION THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE, NOTING THAT IS AN ESSENTIAL STAGE OF THE PROCESS LEADING TO THE HEGEMONY OF SOCIETY BY THE WORKING CLASS.) IN AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO DC PRESIDENT MORO, BERLINGUER PAID TRIBUTE TO QUOTE THOSE FORCES AND MEN, ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS THAT, WHILE NOT EMBRACING THE IDEALS OF SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM, ARE NOT SHORTSIGHTED AND HAVE A SENSE OF REALITY AND OF HISOTRY...END QUOTE. HOLMES

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